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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

44989 7590 01/09/2009

HARRITY & HARRITY, LLP
11350 Random Hills Road
SUITE 600
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

EXAMINER

NOFAL, CHRISTOPHER P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2169

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/813,572

03/31/2004

Hong Zhou

0026-0080

4333

TITLE OF INVENTION: QUERY REWRITING WITH ENTITY DETECTION

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	04/09/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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P.O. Box 1450
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or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

44989 7590 01/09/2009

HARRITY & HARRITY, LLP
11350 Random Hills Road
SUITE 600
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/813,572 03/31/2004 Hong Zhou 0026-0080 4333

TITLE OF INVENTION: QUERY REWRITING WITH ENTITY DETECTION

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 04/09/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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NOFAL, CHRISTOPHER P 2169 707-004000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,572	03/31/2004	Hong Zhou	0026-0080	4333
44989	7590	01/09/2009	EXAMINER	
HARRITY & HARRITY, LLP 11350 Random Hills Road SUITE 600 FAIRFAX, VA 22030			NOFAL, CHRISTOPHER P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2169	
DATE MAILED: 01/09/2009				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 327 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 327 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/813,572	ZHOU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher P. Nofal	2169	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's Request for Continued Examination filed 9/25/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 – 3, 6 – 9, 11, 14 – 16, and 22 – 28 (renumbered 1 – 18).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/29/2008</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

/Christopher P. Nofal/
Examiner, Art Unit 2169

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2169

Art Unit: 2169

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/25/2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment, filed 9/25/2008, has been received, entered into the record, and considered.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement, filed on 9/29/2008, has been received and entered into the record. Since the information disclosure statement complies with the provisions of MPEP § 609, the Examiner has considered the references cited therein. See attached form PTO-1449.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

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Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul A. Harrity (Reg. No. 39,574) on 12/22/2008.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:
receiving a search query from a device associated with a user;
determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;
determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of a plurality of common words or phrases;
rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier that restricts a search based on the rewritten search query to a domain associated with the entity name ~~when the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases~~;
performing a search, based on the rewritten search query, to obtain search results ~~when the received search query is rewritten~~ the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases; [[and]]
presenting the search results to the device when the search is performed based on the rewritten search query;
performing a search based on the received search query when the entity name is determined to correspond to one of the common words or phrases;
providing, to the device, a link to the rewritten search query when the search is performed based on the received search query;
receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query; and
performing a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the link to the rewritten search query.

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2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing a link to the received search query when the search is performed based on the rewritten search query.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
receiving selection of the link to the received search query; and
performing a search based on the received search query in response to the selection of the link to the received search query.
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether a word near the entity name in the received search query forms a common phrase with the entity name; and
performing a search based on the received search query when it is determined that a word near the entity name forms a common phrase with the entity name.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases comprises:
comparing the entity name to a dictionary of words or phrases.

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8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases comprises:

using an inverse document frequency weighting technique or a linguistic modeling technique to identify whether the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases comprises:

generating a table of entity names that correspond to the common words or phrases, and
determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases based on the table.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the received search query includes an entity name comprises:

identifying a plurality of variations of a plurality of entity names, and
determining whether the received search query includes one of the variations of the entity names.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

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14. (currently amended) A ~~system~~ device, comprising:
- means for receiving a search query;
 - means for determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;
 - means for determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of a plurality of common words or phrases;
 - means for rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier that identifies a particular domain associated with the entity name ~~when it is determined that the entity name does not correspond to one of the common words or phrases;~~
 - means for performing a search within the particular domain, based on the rewritten search query, to obtain search results ~~when the received search query is rewritten~~ it is determined that the entity name does not correspond to one of the common words or phrases; [[and]]
 - means for providing the search results when the search within the particular domain is performed;
 - means for performing a search based on the received search query when the entity name is determined to correspond to one of the common words or phrases;
 - means for providing a link to the rewritten search query when the search is performed based on the received search query;
 - means for receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query; and
 - means for performing a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the link to the rewritten search query.

15. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ device of claim 14, further comprising:

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means for providing a link to the received search query when the search within the particular domain is performed.

16. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ device of claim 15, further comprising:
means for receiving selection of the link to the received search query; and
means for performing a search based on the received search query in response to the selection of the link to the received search query.

17-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:
receiving a search query from a device associated with a user;
determining whether the received search query includes an entity name;
determining whether the entity name corresponds to one of a plurality of common words or phrases;
when the entity name corresponds to one of the common words or phrases,
generating a link to a rewritten query,
performing a search based on the received search query to obtain first search results,
providing, to the device, the first search results and the link to the rewritten query;
receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query, and
perform a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the link to the rewritten search query;
and when the entity name does not correspond to one of the common words or phrases,

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rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier that identifies a particular domain associated with the entity name,
generating a link to the received search query,
performing a search for documents within the particular domain based on the rewritten search query to obtain second search results,
providing, to the device, the second search results and the link to the received search query,
receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query, and
performing a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the link to the rewritten search query,

23. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a memory to store instructions; and

a processor to execute the instructions in the memory to:

receive a search query,
determine that the received search query includes an entity name,
determine [[that]] whether the entity name ~~does not correspond~~ corresponds to one of a plurality of common words or phrases,
rewrite the received search query to include a restrict identifier that restricts a search, based on the rewritten search query, to a domain associated with the entity name ~~when the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases,~~
when the entity name is determined to correspond to one of the common words or phrases;

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perform a search based on the received search query,
provide a link to the rewritten search query,
receive a selection of the link to the rewritten search query, and
perform a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of
the link to the rewritten search query, and
when the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words
or phrases:

perform a search based on the rewritten search query to obtain search results
~~when the received search query is rewritten,~~ and
present the search results when the search is performed based on the
rewritten search query.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, where the processor is further configured to:

determine whether a word near the entity name in the received search query forms a
common phrase with the entity name, and
perform a search based on the received search query when it is determined that a word near the
entity name forms a common phrase with the entity name.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 23, where when determining that the
received search query includes an entity name, the processor is configured to:

identify a plurality of variations of a plurality of entity names, and
determine that the received search query includes one of the variations of the entity names.

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26. (currently amended) A computer-readable memory device that stores computer-executable instructions, the computer-readable memory device comprising:

one or more instructions to receive a search query;

one or more instructions to determine that the received search query includes an entity name;

one or more instructions to determine whether the entity name corresponds to one of a plurality of common words or phrases;

one or more instructions to rewrite the received search query to include a restrict identifier that restricts a search based on the rewritten search query to a domain associated with the entity name ~~when the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases;~~

one or more instructions to perform a search, based on the rewritten search query, to obtain search results ~~when the received search query is rewritten~~ the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases; [[and]]

one or more instructions to present the search results when the search is performed based on the rewritten search query;

one or more instructions to perform a search based on the received search query when the entity name is determined to correspond to one of the common words or phrases;

one or more instructions to provide a link to the rewritten search query when the search is performed based on the received search query;

one or more instructions to receive a selection of the link to the rewritten search query; and

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one or more instructions to perform a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the link to the rewritten search query.

27. (previously presented) The computer-readable memory device of claim 26, further comprising:

one or more instructions to provide a link to the received search query when the search is performed based on the rewritten search query.

28. (previously presented) The computer-readable memory device of claim 27, further comprising:

one or more instructions to receive selection of the link to the received search query; and

one or more instructions to perform a search based on the received search query in response to the selection of the link to the received search query.

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1 – 3, 6 – 9, 11, 14 – 16, and 22 – 28 (now renumbered 1 – 18) are allowed over the cited prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art, either alone or in combination, fails to teach in combination with the other claim limitations the combined

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features of: ‘rewriting the received search query to include a restrict identifier that restricts a search based on the rewritten search query to a domain associated with the entity name; performing a search based on the rewritten search query to obtain search results when the entity name is determined not to correspond to one of the common words or phrases; presenting the search results to the device when the search is performed based on the rewritten search query; performing a search based on the received search query when the entity name is determined to correspond to one of the common words or phrases; providing, to the device, a link to the rewritten search query when the search is performed based on the received search query; receiving a selection of the link to the rewritten search query; and performing a search based on the rewritten search query in response to the selection of the link to the rewritten search query,” as recited in the independent claims.

The two closest references, **Bowman (US 6,006,225)** and **Google Hacks (February 2003)**, teach various aspects of the claimed invention:

Bowman discloses, *inter alia*, receiving a search query, determining whether the search query includes an entity name, determining whether the entity name corresponds to common words or phrases, and rewriting the received search query to obtain a rewritten search query.

Google Hacks discloses, *inter alia*, incorporating restrict identifiers into rewritten queries.

However, neither **Bowman** nor **Google Hacks** explicitly discloses the features recited in the independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher P. Nofal whose telephone number is (571)270-3161. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pierre M. Vital can be reached on (571) 272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

22-Dec-08

/Christopher P. Nofal/
Examiner, Art Unit 2169

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2169